

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) A method of providing electrical connection to a series of closely spaced plates, comprising:

associating a plurality of electrical contacts with an elongate elastomeric member;

compressing a segment of the elongate elastomeric member and placing the compressed segment between a pair of adjacent members of the series of closely spaced plates; and

locating at least one of the plurality of contact points in contact with one of the closely spaced plates by allowing the compressed segment to push against the pair of adjacent members to generate a force which pushes at least one of the plurality of contact points against the one of the closely spaced plates.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, further comprising reducing a dimension between the pair of adjacent members by associating a locking member with the series of closely spaced plates.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein associating a locking member with the series of closely spaced plates further comprises applying a compressive force to the elastomeric strip.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, further comprising monitoring a fuel cell stack by providing an electrical connection between the contacts and a monitoring device.

25. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein placing the compressed segment between a pair of adjacent members further comprises moving the compressed segment past a locking protrusion associated with one of the adjacent members.

26. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein locating at least one of the plurality of contacts in contact with one of the closely spaced plates further comprises locating a locking protrusion within a cooperating recess.

27. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein associating the electrical contact includes pushing the contact member at least partially through the elastomeric member.

28. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein associating the electrical contact includes silk screening a contact on a surface of the elastomeric member.

29. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein associating the electrical contact includes adhesively attaching the electrical contact to the elastomeric member.

30. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein associating the electrical contact includes locating one of the contacts within one of the recesses.